

# The Signature

## Sigonella, Sicily

Vol. 20 No. 47

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Safety standdown Dec. 1-5 at  
base theater. 8 a.m. noon.

## Military Families of the Year awarded

By AN Michelle Hartgraves  
Staff writers

Tonya Sonnier presents the Curry and Pakola families their awards for Military Family appreciation month. The Curry family won grand prize and the title of NASSIG Military Family of the Year. The Pakola family were runners up.

Does your family have what it takes to be the Military Family of the Year? That question was answered recently by a program sponsored by Fleet and Family Support Center.

Sailors were given a chance to nominate their family to win the title of NAS Sigonella Military Family of the Year and a prize package. Nominations were open to all military families and were judged on creativity, nominee demonstrating exceptional volunteer accomplish-

Military family, page 12

## Sigonella volunteers bringing holiday cheer

By AN Michelle Hartgraves  
Staff writers

Visions of stuffed turkeys, hot crescent rolls, mashed potatoes and gravy, pumpkin pie and hot apple cider may be coming to a dinner table near you, with the help of fellow Sigonellans and the Chaplains Department.

Every year with the help of donations, the Chaplains Department puts together holiday food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas to help feed families who might not otherwise be able to enjoy a traditional holiday meal.

"The chaplains noticed along with the command that there are those Sailors who have financial difficulties and that the holiday season is a lonely time of year for many," said Chaplain Richard Townes. "In order to make those who are financially disadvantaged feel as though they were going to have a decent Thanksgiving and Christmas away from home, we decided that this would be a good way to help them out a little bit."

"This is a good program. It makes me happy to know that the baskets are going to families that need them," said RP2 Lucy King, who has been active in the program in past years at previous commands.

"Big feasts can be expensive, especially when you throw in all the turkey or ham and all the fixings. It can really add up," said Townes. With the food donated and the money that the First Class and Chief Association contributed, they were able to make the food baskets a reality. According to Townes, some commands even have their own collection points.

Food baskets, page 8

## Today's Hometown Weather

Pensacola, FL



High 66° F - Low 45° F  
Sunny

# Ops

Story and photos by  
JO3 Steve Weaver  
Staff writers

Sigonella's Operations Department is the point on which the "Hub of the Med" revolves. In part two of the series *The Signature* looks at the work of the men and women who make ground electronics and the command post run.



Ops, page 10

A Sailor, assigned to NAS Sigonella's Ground Electronics Maintenance Division (GEMD), performs maintenance on a Fence Line Protection System (FPS) on one of NAS Sigonella's fences. GEMD ensures all U.S. owned air traffic control facilities, communications and navigation systems, Electronic Security Systems (ESS) and weather detection and prediction systems onboard NAS Sigonella and its outlying remote sites are continuously maintained and operationally sound.

Naval Air Station Sigonella's Operations Department is responsible for much of the daily workings of the "Hub of the Med."

The dedicated professionals perform tasks such as maintaining security systems, ensuring safe landing of aircraft, moving people and cargo throughout the Mediterranean, and maintaining smooth operation of the airfield.

One division considered a major part of operations on the base is the Command Post. They provide around-the-clock services such as on-base transportation for pilots and aircrews, ground support equipment for aircrews as well as maintaining emergency arresting gear.

"We schedule and park all aircraft throughout the base with the exception of the patrol squadron (VP) guys and the Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four (HC-4) guys," said AS1 Bradley White, Command Post leading petty officer. "We also provide all the ground servicing for all

those aircraft. The way we do this is we utilize a local contractor, Algese. They basically provide all the ground services. We dispatch them to the appropriate aircraft on time."

The Command Post assists and maintains the Air Mobility Command (AMC) flights coming through. "We provide the air terminal a lot of services and information on flights coming through the base," said White. These include information on Space A flights.

The Transient Line, part of the Command Post, services aircraft that aren't based in Sigonella. They provide plane directing, fuel, personnel assistance and more. According to ABE3 Eric Vargas, arresting gear operator for E-28 aircraft, Transient Line workers also rig arresting gear, which can help an aircraft in trouble land safely. "We can limit the amount of damage in a case where there is something that can disable the aircraft." The E-28 Emergency Runway Arresting Gear is designed

to safely arrest tail-hook equipped aircraft in the event of an aborted takeoff or an emergency landing at an ashore airfield.

The Command Post makes sure the aircraft out on the airfield get what they need most. "We schedule and prioritize all fueling for all aircraft throughout the base," said White.

White said the 22 Sailors in the division are very good at what they do. "It's something that's important," he said. "It's definitely needed throughout the base. We're the brain center for the whole ramp...that's an important job."

The division is also contributing to the war effort. "On a daily basis, we see aircraft that are heading downrange," said White. "[They] come through us, get services and rest up for their continue-on flight. We directly reflect the war efforts that are going on. All the cargo that's going down-

Ops, page 10

## Swimming to victory in Sicily

By JO3 Steve Weaver  
Staff writers

The third edition of the World Military Games are scheduled to take place a few miles away from Naval Air Station Sigonella in Catania, Sicily, from Dec. 4 - 12.

Military athletes from all over the world will descend upon Catania to battle for the top spot in events such as basketball, judo, cycling, and fencing. These athletes train long and hard, expecting high-caliber competition.

Sigonella lays claim to one such athlete. Lt. Ian Johnston, a Charlotte, N.C., native who works in Sigonella's Tactical Support Center (TSC), will compete in multiple swimming events in the upcoming games.

Johnston will swim the 1,500 meter breaststroke, the 200 meter breaststroke, the 200 meter individual medley, and then go on to compete in three relay events with his teammates. "We only have four guys coming so we're going to be on all the relays," said Johnston. "Those are the best events. All the individual events I've done don't add up to some of the relays that I've been on."

Johnston, who has been swimming for about 25 years, has prior experience on this level of competition. He swam in the last World



A member of NAS Sigonella's Tactical Support Center practices the breast stroke in NAS Sigonella's NAS II pool. Johnston will compete in multiple swimming events in the World Military Games, which will be held in Catania, Sicily, from Dec. 4 through 11.

Photo by JO3 Steve Weaver

Swimmer, page 9





# NAVY NEWS

## Secretary of the Navy stops by Sigonella



Commanding Officer Capt. T.L. Davison greets Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England Nov. 23. England's aircraft stopped by Naval Air Station Sigonella to refuel on his way to the Arabian Gulf region.

## Navy Chaplain Corps Celebrates 228th Anniversary

By OS2 Class Wendy Kahn, National Naval Medical Center Public Affairs

BETHESDA, Md. (NNS) — The Navy Chaplain Corps celebrated its 228th anniversary Nov. 13, commemorating a history that traces back to 1775.

Today's Navy chaplains represent more than 100 faith groups. They provide religious support and counseling services to Sailors and Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Merchant Mariners during war and peacetime operations.

The term "chaplain" is derived from a French legend. According to the legend, Saint Martin of Tours split his cloak in half and shared it with a beggar at the gates of Amiens, France. The officer tasked with the care of the cloak and carrying it into battle was called the chaplain or "cloak bearer."

A Navy chaplain's role on active duty is very rewarding, yet hard at times, according to Lt. Cmdr. Mark Koczak, a Russian Orthodox priest and one of National Naval Medical Center's (NNMC) staff chaplains. Unlike a civilian pastor, who is limited to one faith group, military chaplains work with people from different faith groups.

"It's a different kind of ministry than being a priest in a civilian church," he says. "I work at NNMC to serve our Sailors, Marines and patients. I also served in four Armed Forces, and advising people from various religious denominations is a neat experience, but it's not an easy life. We're different people, because we're sometimes isolated from the

rest of the people in our faith group."

Being a Navy chaplain requires the clergy person to take care of people in a specific faith group by performing services. Chaplains can be ministers, pastors, priests, rabbis or imams, but must be ordained and endorsed by their churches to serve in the military's Chaplain Corps.

Once a clergy person is approved by his or her church, he or she would then attend chaplain school and report to a duty station. The Chaplain Corps also has a Chaplain Candidate Training Program for men and women who become Reserve officers but are not ordained. They are called chaplain candidates and are similar to interns until they're ordained.

Like staff corps officers (attorneys, nurses and physicians), chaplains compete against each other for rank promotion.

They are assigned to hospitals, ships, the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard. Currently, there are about 860 Navy chaplains on active duty; about 200 of them are serving with Marines and 40 are in the Coast Guard.

Besides performing divine services, chaplains are the ethical, moral and religious advisors for the commanding officer of a particular unit. Chaplains can request religious materials, contact a member's minister on behalf of that Sailor or advise the command of a member's religious dietary needs. The bottom line is that they are chaplains for everyone.

## Devil Docs Compete For Honors

By Cpl. Ryan D. Libbert, Consolidated Public Affairs

OKINAWA, Japan (NNS) — More than 60 Navy corpsmen participated in the III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) Commanding General's Navy Battle Skills Training Competition.

The competition, held the last week in October, was designed to test the knowledge, medical and general military field skills, physical fitness, teamwork, and decision-making abilities of corpsmen stationed on Okinawa.

"The Marine Corps relies on these Sailors for their medical needs," CMDM Julian S. Talosig, command master chief for III MEF, said. "This competition is a way of getting back to our roots as Devil Docs. This is excellent training for them with some added competitive spirit."

Eight teams competed, each with six members. Two teams came from Marine Corps Base Butler, two from 3rd Marine Division, two from III MEF Headquarters Group, one from 1st Marine Air Wing, and one from 3rd Force Service Support Group.

port Group.

The teams competed in seven events over five days. The events included a written examination, land navigation, a 3.4-mile endurance course, an obstacle course, pistol qualification, a boat race and a 10-mile conditioning march.

"It's a very noble thing to see these young Sailors volunteer for this," Talosig said. "This is the first time a lot of these corpsmen have received training like this. Some of them haven't received their Fleet Marine Force warfare badge yet. Just seeing them work together as a team is motivating, because that's what this competition is all about."

The competition is very strenuous, according to Seaman Orlando A. Soriano, a corpsman from U.S. Naval Hospital, Okinawa.

"The competition was really challenging," the Martinez, Calif., native said. "It took a lot of heart and determination to push through the endurance course alone. Knowing that there were seven other teams vying for the same glory gave us the will to put more than our best effort into it."

## Price Is Right Hosts Special Show for Active Duty

By JO3 Cheryl Wilson, Naval Media Center, Fleet Support Detachment San Diego Public Affairs

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (NNS) — CBS hosted a special taping of The Price Is Right game show Nov. 7 honoring the Armed Forces and Veterans at CBS Television City's Bob Barker Studio.

More than 300 service members and veterans attended the taping with hopes of becoming a contestant on the popular daytime game show. Soon after the show began, the prospective contestants found out

exactly why the special taping was called "The Price Is Right Million Dollar Spectacular."

The show presented one contestant with the most expensive prize ever to have been offered on the show. Worth more than \$100,000, that lucky contestant had the opportunity to win an RV. After that, everyone wanted the chance to win a prize.

"Everyone was waiting to get the last spot. I had my fingers crossed and was ready to go in there," claimed Lt. Cmdr. Thaddeus Smith, combat systems

officer aboard USS Antietam (CG 54).

This was not the first show honoring military personnel. The Price Is Right hosted five shows dedicated to the Armed Forces last year. Each show consisted of an audience of one branch of the military - Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Army and Coast Guard. This year, Bob Barker hosted one show dedicated not only to the active duty, but also to the veterans of the armed forces.

"It is nice to know that people support us. It feels good to have support from the community," said Cpl. Sybil Chadorchi, a Los Angeles native.

## Sexual Assault Victim Intervention

SAVI offers a Sexual Assault Hotline staffed with trained Advocates who man the SAVI Hotlines 24/7. The number is 335-642-8312 or 335-606-6146.

## NAS II pass and ID service

NAS II Pass and ID will have limited services for approx 45 while the office goes through renovations. NAS I pass and ID will be doing all Ramp Badges, guest passes, employee/contractor base passes, and ration cards. NAS II Pass and ID will only do rental passes, encoding of Ramp Badges, and NASI/NAS II memos. The hours of operations for both offices are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We apologize for the inconvenience.

## Holiday safety tips from Security

Holiday Season Is Here..... and so are the thieves. During these holiday days we enjoy and celebrate our time with our family and friends. Yet, there are those that take advantage of these times, and manage to hurt us during what is supposed to be the most joyfulness time of the year.

During the Holiday season Housebreaking and Motor vehicle break-ins increase up to 50% the normal rate. Lower your possibilities of becoming a victim.

- Make sure you lock all your windows and doors, when leaving your home.

- Lock your vehicle; make sure you roll up the windows. Do not leave any valuables in your vehicle, even if they are not visible.

- Be aware of your surroundings, criminals are just looking to see you leave for a minute, because a minute is all they need.

- If you value it, lock it up and keep it out of plain view.

Remember: It is better to prevent, than to regret. Do not let yourself and your families become victims.

## From the Training Dept...

Base Education and Training is now open from 5 to 9 p.m. from Monday to Thursday in order to allow our base population to study and prepare for numerous computer/IT related certifications in support of Task Force Excel. The coursework that we have on-hand is as follows: Microsoft Systems Engineering, Microsoft Systems Administration, Cisco Network, Network, Security and A+. This material will enable our personnel to familiarize themselves with the material that will be on the certification test.

We have also purchased software licensing for the "Transcender" practice tests. In essence, these tests will enable the test takers to familiarize themselves with the material that is covered on the test as well as the actual test layout and procedures. The Transcender tests closely correlate to the actual certification tests and will help ensure success on the actual test. Certification test success is very high once the Transcender tests are successfully completed.

In addition to this, we have recently been designated as a certified PEARSON VUE testing center. Interested personnel can now prepare, study, take practice tests and obtain actual certifications here at Base Education and Training. We have partnered with Amy Parke, the TAP coordinator and Mike Sloane, the Regional Training Authority in order to obtain funding for the certification tests. The cost for the test is \$150.00 and will be covered through the above mentioned sources.

All of this is free to active duty, dependants and GS employees. The only thing needed is the will and perseverance to complete the tests. Please encourage our Sigonella community to take advantage of these opportunities.

## Task Force Uniform Completes Survey, Makes Recommendations to CNO

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Members of Task Force Uniform (TFU) made their first report to Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Vern Clark last week, after having completed a comprehensive Internet survey and dozens of focus groups in fleet concentration areas.

"In the past, we have made minor quality improvements to Navy uniforms with limited scope," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/AW) Terry Scott. "The formation of Task Force Uniform was about more than just making additional minor modifications. It was about ensuring we have the right uniforms for Sailors of the 21st century. We listened to Sailors and their concerns, and made recommendations based on their desires and the mission requirements of the Navy."

Several uniform and policy recommendations were approved by the CNO as a result of this report, and new uniform concepts were approved for pilot testing throughout the Navy.

## News Briefs

### Central Texas College Term Three

Central Texas College is now offering an Associates Degree in Applied Science. For term three, CTC will be providing classes for an AAS in Criminal Justice and an AAS in Early Childhood Professions (term three registration will begin Jan. 5 to 16). Call Carly Gutierrez at 624-6407 or stop by the office next door to Navy College.

### Instructors Needed

Central Texas College is looking for instructors experienced in the areas of Early Childhood Professions, Criminal Justice and Emergency Medical Technology. Call Carly at x6407 or e-mail ctc\_sig@hotmail.com.

### Early Registration for University of Phoenix

Applications for early registration are currently being accepted for Masters of Business Administration, Masters of Education in Elementary and Secondary - leading to Certification, Masters of Education in Adult Education, Distance Learning and Masters of Education in Administration and Supervision. Managerial Communications and Ethics is scheduled to start at the end of January. By enrolling early the application fee will be waived. Deadline for early registration is Dec 31.

### Gym Holiday Hours

The holiday hours for both fitness centers are as follows: Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Dec. 24 from 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Dec. 25 from noon to 6 p.m.; Dec. 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Dec. 31 from 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Jan. 1 from noon to 6 p.m. and January 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Exams Coming Soon

CLEP/DANTES/Excelior exam dates are Dec. 9 and 16. The ACT exam will take place Dec. 18 and the SAT exam will be on Dec. 19. Space is limited so sign up today at the Navy College Office. Check out these websites for other distance education degree options. [www.navycollege.navy.mil](http://www.navycollege.navy.mil), [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com), [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

### VP-45 Milestones

Congratulations to Lt. Chris Roegen for achieving another milestone in his career. Roegen successfully completed the VP-45 TACCO syllabus on Nov. 13. Congratulations to Lt. Jason Hildreth for achieving another milestone in his career. Hildreth successfully completed the VP-45 Patrol Plane Commander syllabus, having completed these qualifications they now assume a more critical role within the VP-45 war-fighting team.



By Alberto Lunetta  
Signature Staff

## Paternò celebrates Saint Barbara

From Dec. 3 through 5, the community of Paternò will hold a religious festival in honor of Saint Barbara, the city's patron saint. The devotion shown by the Paternò community to Saint Barbara dates back to 1576 when a deadly plague epidemic was averted after she was invoked for help.

Yet, according to another legend, in 1780, a violent Etna eruption was only halted after Paternò townspeople carried in procession the Saint Barbara relics near the town of Ragalna on the slopes of the volcano.

Saint Barbara is invoked to grant safety from lightning, thunderstorms, and fires. Since the Middle Age, she has been regarded as the patron saint of those who are in danger of fire or explosions. Thus, she has been associated with artillerymen, fire fighters and ordnance disposal people. Her image used to be placed on arsenals and powder magazines. In Italian, the ammunition magazine on a war ship is still called *Santabarbara*.

### Life of Saint Barbara

According to one legend, Saint Barbara lived in Heliopolis in Anatolia (the Asian part of Turkey) around 286 AD during the rule of Maximian, an anti-Christian emperor. She was the beautiful and intelligent daughter of Dioscorus, a wealthy pagan nobleman and a jealous father. An ambitious man, he thought his power would increase by marrying off Barbara to a mighty prince. But she refused saying she was already devoted to Christ. Because of her stubborn refusal, Dioscorus had her locked in a tower (that is why Saint Barbara is usually represented standing by a tower with three windows, carrying the palm of a martyr or the chalice of happy death in her hands) to punish her and to keep her away from the teachings of Jesus. But Barbara was not upset with her father's decision and enjoyed her imprisonment spending her time praying with her friend Giuliana. One day, upon his return from a long trip, Dioscorus

discovered that Barbara carved a cross on her bathtub and that another window was added to the tower so that the three windows might symbolize the Holy Trinity. Furious at discovering her perseverance in the Christian faith, Dioscorus threw himself in a blind rage at Barbara who managed to escape toward a mountain and hid behind a rock that miraculously opened and closed behind her. However, the evil father eventually caught her and dragged her before Marcan, a Roman judge who tried to convince her to give up her faith. As she kept refusing to abjure her Christian faith, Marcan decreed that she would be tortured and put to death by beheading. Thus, Dioscorus himself carried out the execution by grabbing her beautiful long hair and beheading her. Right after, God punished this cruel father, as Dioscorus was struck by lightning and his body reduced to ashes.

### Festival Schedule

On Dec. 3, a children's choir will sing religious chants in piazza Indipendenza at 9 p.m.

The highlight of the festival is Dec. 4. At 8 a.m., the statue depicting the saint and the holy relics are



Santa Barbara's feast is held from Dec. 3 through 5 in Paternò and is celebrated with religious parades, Holy Masses, spectacular fireworks, City band performances and processions of the saint's relics throughout the city.

unveiled. Later, at 10 a.m. and at 5 p.m., the holy relics are brought in procession throughout the historic center of the town. A group of about ten *varette* (baroque styled carts containing a tall wax candle decorated with lights, small flags and statues depicting angels, saints and flowers) will lead the procession.

At noon, a firework show will be performed in piazza Vittorio Veneto.

At 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., holy masses will be celebrated at the church of Saint Barbara.

A music show by the local city Band will be held at 10:15 p.m. in piazza Indipendenza.

For more information call Paternò City Hall at

095-7970111.

## Anne Ducros' Quintet to perform in Sicily

French Jazz vocalist Anne Ducros and her quintet will soon be on stage in three different Sicilian cities: Messina - Dec. 5 and 6 - 9:30 p.m. at the *Annibale M. Di Francia* Theatre in piazza Spirito Santo n. 1; Siracusa - Dec. 3 - 9:30 p.m. at the *ASAM* Theatre located in via St. Pietro n. 20 and Catania - Dec. 4 - 9:30 p.m. at the *Sala de Curtis* Theatre in via Duca degli Abruzzi n. 6/a.

Critics wrote about her: "This classically trained singer with a rich, sparkling voice is as at ease in scat as she is singing ballads. The "Jazz Academy" has awarded Ducros' album "Purple Songs" its reward "Billie Holiday" as the best vocal album of the year 2001. Anne Ducros was born in Pas de Calais (France) and began her classic training (musical and vocal) at the "Boulogne Sur Mer" Music school. While studying law at the University of Lille, Ducros also completed and refined her vocal mastery specializing in baroque music (especially in music from Couperin, Twigg and Bach). In 1986, she formed her first quartet of jazz earning awards in various international competitions. During years 1992-1993, she thought vocal jazz in several schools in Paris. Over the years, she animated trainings all over the world (Aix, Le Havre, Chicago, Calvi, Bruxelles). For more information and tickets call *The Brass Group* at 095-7465174 or 347-6372592 or Ticket Box Office at 095-72225340.

## Gospel concerts in Catania

On Nov. 28 and 29, several Italian Gospel choirs will be performing at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of San Francesco all' Immacolata that is located in piazza Dusmet (near Elephant square). Admission is free.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>COMMUNITY CALENDAR</b>						<b>November</b>
					<b>28</b> <b>Thanksgiving Swim It Off</b> prizes for most laps in one hour register at NAS II Pool	<b>29</b> <b>Decoration Day Breakfast</b> help decorate for the holiday a free breakfast for all decorators. Take 5
<b>30</b> <b>Agrigento Valley of the Temples &amp; S. Leone Beach</b> ITT Call 624-4396	<b>1</b> <b>Intermural Basketball</b> Pre-Season Starts Call 624-2710	<b>2</b> <b>PTO Elementary School Book Fair</b> 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. School library	<b>3</b> <b>PTO Elementary School Book Fair</b> 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. School library	<b>4</b> <b>PTO Elementary School Book Fair</b> 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. School library	<b>5</b> <b>PTO Elementary School Book Fair</b> 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. School library	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>Chapel Christmas Play &amp; Cantata</b> 6 p.m. NAS I Chapel	<b>8</b> <b>Elementary PTO Meeting</b> 2:30 p.m. room B-25	<b>9</b> <b>Ballet Classes Offered</b> 205 Youth Center or Mineo Rec Center	<b>10</b> <b>Mineo Holiday Arts &amp; Crafts Day</b> 5 to 6 p.m. Mineo Rec. Center	<b>11</b> <b>Recreational Boxing</b> every thursday 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Activity Zone Call 624-4295	<b>12</b> <b>Base ICR</b> 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. ICR class room Call 624-4291	<b>13</b> <b>Jingle Bell 10K Run</b> registration 7:30 to 8 a.m. NAS I Fitness Center Capt. Cup event Call 624-4483/5243
<b>14</b> <b>Holiday Word Find</b> all day Take 5	<b>15</b> <b>Holiday Gift Giveaway</b> enter the drawing for a free gift Take 5	<b>16</b> <b>Giselle by Adolphe Charles Adam Ballet</b> 4:30 p.m. ITT Call 624-4396	<b>17</b> <b>Rainbow Playgroup</b> 10 to 11 a.m. 205 Housing	<b>18</b> <b>Christmas Gift Wrapping</b> Mineo Rec Center	<b>19</b> <b>Ornament Making Day</b> 4 p.m. BLAST	<b>20</b> <b>Arm Wrestling Competition</b> 12:30 p.m. Take 5
<b>21</b> <b>Catania Shopping by Night</b> ITT Call 624-4396	<b>22</b> <b>Deck Your Doors Contest</b> noon decorate your barracks doors for prizes Liberty	<b>23</b> <b>Teen Holiday Cooking Class</b> 3 to 5 p.m. Teen Center	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Merry Christmas</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Base ICR</b> 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. ICR class room Call 624-4291	<b>27</b>





## Word Find

### Favorite Disney characters

H N X Z B I Y Y P W C E O S V L F A L E W D M J E  
E R I S V D E U I T S T T U I H A K G Q V L T E  
R R U D O J T H N N H Y X E U B A S H F U L I I R  
C S C O D E P D G N Y F G L P L F C I X N H N Y E  
U H W R R A E C Y I J P W W Z G P C H C W N S E S  
L O P Y R L Q T E O B P J C K E J K W I G E P S  
E O A O E Z L A D Y H R Q A C Z U L O M H B S O E  
S N W L K S E I P I N O C C H I O N G B Q A N D H  
H A L H E T L E D T C T E N U P S E G E V M A J C  
A A U S I E T S N E V H T V Q A T M E F P B Y U T  
L D Y R I T I S M S E E T W O S A U Q C J I T D A  
U U A R O B E J D G N R Z E V U D L S U O T F G R  
S F A I T R R R C L B B A D L H M J A V K R L F Z  
R X K E S P A Y A E Y E E B H G A P B Z B A O Y A  
U K F S T Y D H A B N A T N E C I F E L A M W T N  
E Y R O E E G S L Q B R K C I L F P F Z Y P D U V  
Y D N E W B T L W O I D M T P P G Z T F P A A L  
C R U E L L A D E V I L T O R Z P U I S O N B E C  
Z I D O D H L S Y P E E L S N U B G F D O D G B P  
P L V R C B I R T B E L L E M A G B R P G M I Z E  
M C Y I C K D L S I K B M P Q E L K T W U O B W V  
Q O M K Y N C R F K A N Y Q R N B D A L H L B U D  
E N I O W A J O W A N N M I C K E Y A N S I M B A  
M Q U G F P I O D W J M D G X T U N G S G H J Z B  
A N Y H C Y W Z R O H P V L T X T J C N E A M E R

ALADDIN  
ARIEL  
AURORA  
BAMBI  
BASHFUL  
BEAST  
BEAUTY  
BELLE  
BIG BAD WOLF  
BROTHER BEAR

BUZZ  
CHESSER  
CINDERELLA  
CRUELLEA DE VIL  
DAISY  
DOC  
DONALD  
DOPEY  
EEOREY  
FLICK

GOOFY  
GRUMPY  
HAPPY  
HERCULES  
HOOK  
JASMINE  
JOHN  
KANGA  
LADY  
MALEFICENT

MICHAEL  
MICKY  
MINNIE  
MULAN  
OWL  
PEG LEG PETE  
PETER PAN  
PIGLET  
PINOCCHIO  
PLUTO  
ROO  
SEBASTIAN  
SIMBA  
SLEEPY  
SNEEZY  
SNOW WHITE  
TARZAN  
TIGGER  
TRAMP  
URSULA  
WENDY  
WHITE RABBIT  
WINNIE  
WOODY

## Shout

DoDDs students talk about what's happening in the community

### 50s Day Celebration a Success

We had a wonderful crowd at the PTO sponsored 50's Day Celebration on Nov. 18. We raised more than \$300 on the 50 cents admission and food items. A Great big thank you goes to Leslie Deal for heading up this event! She did a fantastic job! Special thanks also goes to the Tactical Support Center for loaning us the hotdog and popcorn machines, as well as several enthusiastic volunteers! Commissary Assistant Store Director, Tracy Pierce and vendor representative, Donna Tucker also deserve special thanks for all the food items they donated for the evening. Of course, the evening wouldn't have happened without all the volunteers who served food, collected money and generally helped out, so thank you to all of them too. All the teachers, students, staff and parents really got into the spirit by dressing up.

### PTO fundraising a Success

The PTO Dimes for Decatur Fundraiser was a huge success! In the few weeks that we had the students bring in dimes, we collected over \$1300! Thank you to all who contributed.

### "Master and Commander;" Is It Naval History?

By Brian S. Chi, Naval Historical Center Public Affairs



Actor Russell Crowe, as 19th century Capt. Jack Aubrey, RN, is seen in this publicity photo from the new motion picture "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World." A group of naval historians, curators and other experts from the Naval Historical Center recently viewed the film during a special 20th Century Fox and Department of the Navy screening of the full-length film in Arlington, Va. The group found the movie to be an authentic portrayal of naval warfare and Sailor life during the early 19th century.

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Historians, curators and museum education experts from the Naval Historical Center (NHC) and Naval Historical Foundation (NHF) recently had the opportunity to view Fox's newest movie, "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," starring at a special 20th Century Fox and Navy screening in Arlington, Va.

Twentieth Century Fox is hopeful that the film, which stars Russell Crowe, will be a blockbuster.

Many NHC and NHF members wondered if the movie would be historically accurate or pure Hollywood, and have any lessons for modern Sailors.

"Master and Commander," based on British author Patrick O'Brian's set of 19th-century naval novels, follows Royal Navy Capt. Jack Aubrey (Crowe) and the crew of his ship HMS Surprise as they sail out to see the richness and strangeness of life on the far side of the world, against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars.

The movie was well received by the NHC members of the audience who deemed it, in general, very historically accurate.

### Craft Fair



MWR Holiday Celebration kicked off Nov. 22 on NAS I with plenty of fun and cheer for all. Over 500 Kids enjoyed making various crafts and frosting cookies. A holiday craft bazaar gave everyone an opportunity to do some holiday shopping, hot cocoa and holiday music made it just right. Eighteen volunteers participated in making this fun for the kids.

Fri. Nov. 28

Swim off that Thanksgiving dinner. Prizes for the most laps in one hour. Sign up at the NAS II Pool. Call x4334 or x5243.

Sat. Nov. 29

Help Liberty create a winter wonderland and bring a little bit of cheer to all away from home. Free breakfast for those who come to help decorate. The fun starts at 10 a.m. at Take 5. Call x5187.

Don't miss the trip to Biviere Lake and Casablanca Farm. Enjoy a relaxing stroll and experience the magic atmosphere of both nature and old peasant life. Call ITT at x4396 or x4777.

Tour Mirabella Imbaccari where lace and tombolo are still handmade with ITT. Then visit the Bacari's Palace and eat lunch at an agriturismo farm. Call x4396 or x4777.

Sun. Nov. 30

Explore the most beautiful Greek temples in Sicily in the ancient town of Agrigento, which host 10 temples still in good shape. Then eat lunch at S. Leone Beach. Call ITT at x4396 or x4777.

Mon. Dec. 1

Have any last minute shopping to do? Liberty will drive you to Auchan, Brico or Team Sport to pick up any groceries or last minute gifts. Bring Euro. Sign up and pay at Take 5 by Nov. 30. Call Liberty at x5187.

Enter your name at Take 5 for a chance to win a free stocking full of goodies.

Tues. Dec. 2

Wrap your gifts at gifts at Take 5. Just bring your gifts they will provide the wrapping supplies.

Anything and everything literary is fair game in the Library's holiday trivia contest. Visit the Library for a new puzzle each day. Rack up those points and win a free DVD. Contest ends Dec. 31.

Wed. Dec. 3

Add that special touch to your holiday packages. Learn quick and easy fold in just one hour. Sign up by calling x3875.

Thurs. Dec. 4

The holiday hours for both fitness centers are as follows: Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Dec. 25 from noon to 6 p.m.; Dec. 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Dec. 31 from 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Jan. 1 from noon to 6 p.m. and Jan. 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## TRIVIA

- 1) In fish physiology, the operculum is what?
- 2) What country's name, when translated means Land of the Thunder Dragon? It is south of China and north of India.
- 3) What is Africa's newest country?
- 4) The Greeks called it the Euxine sea, but what do we call it?
- 5) Which Asian religion employs the inactive philosophy of "wu-wei?"

(Answers on page 13)

## Movie Connection

### MWR's Theater Schedule

Friday, Nov. 28



5:30 p.m.  
School of Rock (PG-13)\*\*



8 p.m.  
Cold Creek Manor(R)\*\*

Saturday, Nov. 29



1 p.m.  
Elf (PG)\*\*



3:30 p.m.  
Brother Bear(G)



6 p.m.  
Under the Tuscan Sun(PG-13)\*\*

Sunday, Nov. 30



1 p.m.  
The Fighting Temptations (PG-13)



3:30 p.m.  
Secondhand Lions (PG)



6 p.m.  
Cold Creek Manor(R)

Monday, Dec. 1



6 p.m.  
Elf (PG)



8 p.m.  
School of Rock (PG-13)

Theater Closed Tuesdays

Wednesday, Dec. 3



6 p.m.  
Matchstick Men (PG-13)\*



8 p.m.  
Underworld (R)

Thursday, Dec. 4



6 p.m.  
Cabin Fever (R)\*

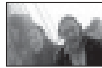


8 p.m.  
The Fighting Temptations (PG-13)

Friday, Dec. 5



7 p.m.  
Native American Dancers



8 p.m.  
Master and Commander (PG-13)\*\*

\*\* Future Re-release \*\*Sneak Preview \*Last Showing  
(All times and movies are subject to change. For more information on the schedule, call the movie hotline at x4248)

Food baskets from page 1



Photo by AN Michelle Hartgraves

These Sailors put together holiday food baskets for Thanksgiving. With the help of donated food and money contributions from the First Class and CPO Association the Chaplain Department was able to supply several families with baskets.

Command master chiefs or department heads were asked to determine who they thought were eligible for the food baskets. The criterion is very simple. "The criteria is not real firm except that they need to have a demonstrated financial need," Townes said. That means people who are having a hard time making ends meet due to a variety of things or situations that cannot be helped.

"It (food baskets) provides a little bit of relief and helps stretch their food budget, but the biggest part that it helps brighten a person's day knowing that the Navy family cares for them, that there are

Sailors out there that want their fellow Sailors to have all the advantages that they have," said Townes.

"It has been a pleasure to work with everybody that have been involved in the food drive. I would like to give a lot of credit to Petty Officer King and all the hard work that she has poured into the program."

People can still donate food at drop boxes in the commissary or can bring it in to the Chapel Department for the Christmas season until Dec. 18.

# SPORTS

## Nassig swimmer has sights set on victory in WMG Swimmer from page 1



Lt. Ian Johnston of NAS Sigonella's Tactical Support Center swims warm up laps in NAS Sigonella's NAS II pool.

Military Games held in Zagreb, Croatia, which hosted 6,734 athletes from 82 nations. He has also been to Olympic trials, NCAA meets, Senior Nationals, and the U.S. Open for swimming.

The games in Catania this year were originally supposed to be held last September, but problems arose that postponed the games. "The team was kind of decimated when they changed the dates from September to December," Johnston said. "It took out a lot of perspective candidates they had. We have a lot

of returning folks so I think [we'll have] a core group of people who were there at the last games.

Even with a small team, Johnston expects keep up with the field. "I think we'll do pretty well," he continued. "I'm the only person who's not a sprinter. I think one of the guys has been training with the University of Southern California. They're a really fast team out there. The girls are pretty good too...from what I hear they've been training pretty hard."

This Sigonella swimmer has been training hard for

the games as well. "I try to come Monday through Friday in the morning from 6 to 7:30 and then get over to work," Johnston said. "When I can make it I come in at 11 and we have a lunch group, a masters team, that usually gets together to swim during lunch."

He also gets out of the water to hit the gym three times a week, but being in the water is where he feels at home. "It's just a feeling I have, it's tough to describe," said Johnston. "If I'm out of the water for too long, I just feel off. I just feel comfortable, it's like a better environment for me."

It's in the water where the U.S. swimmers will face tough competition. "It's going to be excellent competition. If it's anything at all like the last games it's going to be really good. The competitors (in swimming) at the last games kind of mirrored the European championships. So their military teams are much the same as their national teams. With us it's a little bit different because we don't have that caliber in all the events, but that makes us the underdogs so that's good. We've got nothing to live up to, but everything to prove."

Young swimmers from Sigonella's swim team will be watching as these competitors swim for victory. "We're going to have the team come over and watch some of the final seeds because it really shows them what the best in the world are doing. It's good to see them up close and personal, and it's fun to compete with them too."

While swimming in the water at the World Military Games, Johnston will try not to think too much. "All the thinking should be done before the race," he said. Before big races back in high school, Johnston had a good way to cure nervousness before races. "I told myself no matter what happened, when I was done I was probably still going to be going to school, I would still have friends, my family would still love me. It would all be over no matter what happened. That took a lot of pressure off me and I felt like I could just get in and swim."

The pressure is sure to be there as Johnston swims for victory this December.

## The Lane

### Thanksgiving Swim It Off

Friday Nov. 28, at the NAS II pool you can swim off your huge turkey dinner. prizes given for most laps in one hour. Call 624-4334 or 624-5335.

### World Military Games

The CISM World Military Games opening ceremonies and events begin on Dec. 4. Check out <http://www.cism-milspport.org/eng/welcome.html> for a complete schedule of events and venues.

### Intramural Basketball Pre-season

Start gettin your game on, on the court before the season starts. Pre-season begins Dec. 1. Both men's and women's leagues. regular season begins Jan. 6.

### QB Challenge

Stop by the NAS II ballfield Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and show the rest of Sigonella what you got. Participation is free and prizes will be awarded for top three men and women. Call 624-2710 for more information.



Ops from page 1



range comes through here. It's a very rewarding job and they do a good job at it."

"We're definitely a vital part of the base and what goes on here," said White. "We're the central focal point of all operations on this base. If it has something to do with an aircraft coming in, we have all the information and we coordinate."

Another department of Operations that supports activities on and off the airfield is the Ground Electronic Maintenance Division (GEMD). GEMD ensures all U.S. owned Air Traffic Control Facilities Communications and Navigation systems, Electronic Security Systems (ESS), and Weather Detection and Predication systems at NAS Sigonella and its outlying remote sites are continuously maintained and operational.

"We maintain the Electronic Security Systems (ESS) at NAS Sigonella I and II and other outlying remote sites, such as Augusta Bay," said ETC (SW/AW) David Pollard, GEMD leading chief petty officer. "Another one of our important remote sites is Niscemi, which is owned by Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (COMSTA). It is just chucked full of radios and antennas and all kinds of neat stuff. It's a huge facility...we maintain the ESS assets there."

These ESS assets include the large amount of cameras and alarms that keep the base safe, such as those along the fences. "We're responsible for all those cameras and the alarm systems," said Lt. j.g. Tom

Barry, Ground Electronics Maintenance officer. "ESS eats up a lot of our time around the base." The card readers at the gates and turnstiles that access the airfield, and even alarms at the off-base well water complexes are the responsibility of GEMD.

"Another remote site for us now is the Pachino target range, which is a bombing range for inert ordnance," said Pollard. "Different aircraft go down there and drop ordnance and we'll mark it and score it for them against a set buoy out in the water. We actually run the range, which is unique for Ground Electronics because normally Electronics Technician's (ET) don't run target ranges."

GEMD assists Sigonella's air traffic controllers and the weather specialists at the Naval European Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment (NEMOD) by keeping the equipment they rely on operational. "We have a shop that does navigational aids," said Pollard. "They maintain the Supplemental Weather Radar (SWR) radar. They maintain a system called TACAN (Tactical Air Navigation). That's what the pilots use to find this airfield. There's one out there in the middle of the airfield. It's a very important piece of gear."

"We also have another system called ASOS (Automated Surface Observing System), which assists NEMOD," said Pollard. "The ASOS and the SWR radar are what the Aerographer's Mates (AG) use along with another piece of gear we have called the SMQ-11, which is a satellite receiver for



(Far right) A pilot fills out a flight log after a mission in NAS Sigonella's Mediterranean Express (MEDEX) department. MEDEX, which is part of NAS Sigonella's Operations Department, provides support throughout the Mediterranean and European theaters for the movement of VIPs, DOD personnel, mail, parts, cargo and supplies.

(opposite page on left) A Sailor keeps an eye on the radar in the air traffic control tower.

(at right) This pilot, a member of NAS Sigonella's Mediterranean Express (MEDEX), checks the propeller of a C-26 "Metroliner" for any abnormalities after a mission.

(Below) A Sailor a KC-10 on a visual display board in the Operations Department Command Post. The board shows the parking scheme of the various aircraft on the NAS Sigonella flightline.

weather imagery."

Aside from all the techno-wizardry that goes into alarms, radars and radios, GEMD also handles the little stuff, such as public address systems for assorted command functions.

"Our sphere of responsibility is pretty large here even though we are a small division," said Barry. If it wasn't already big enough, they are also "maintaining assets at Souda Bay, Crete," said Barry. "We just sent over two people for a period of four days. We do it once a quarter or if an emergency comes up."

This small division still gets the job done. "It's magic," said Pollard. "Because a lot of the systems they work on they don't have training for. It makes it that much more impressive. For a lot of our systems, our techs just pick up a tech

manual and start cranking out on it."

"People come by the building and think these guys are gone all the time, but they're not," said Barry. "They're out in the field taking care of business."

The diverse and talented group of people in Ops will also take care of business, keeping the "Hub of the Med" rolling along.

**"We're definitely a vital part of the base and what goes on here. We're the ... focal point of all operations ... . If it has something to do with an aircraft coming in, we have all the information and we coordinate."**

*AS1 Bradley White  
Command Post leading petty officer*





Military families from page 1

ments, nominee showing strength during long deployments, family separations and frequent moves according to Cyndy Becker, Community Programs Manager.

Lt. Steve Curry won the grand prize and the title for his family. MA1 Stephen Pakola and his family were runners up. Curry's gifts consisted of the title of Family of the Year, 30 days free designated parking at the NEX/commissary, a free dinner up to 50 Euro on the local economy, a bed and breakfast trip and a gift basket filled with items for the whole family. The Pakolas gifts consisted of the gift basket and gift certificates for merchandise in the local community.

"I thought we had a good chance at winning after I saw the work that my husband had put into the submission," said Sheri Curry. "The prizes are awesome, I especially love the free parking." Both spouses are actively involved in the community. "We volunteer to help the community, we don't do it for the recognition," added Curry.

It came as a surprise to the Pakolas who had no idea that they were nominated by MA1 Pakola's command. "I think that it is a good idea that they started doing this for the Military Family Appreciation Month," said Nohealani Pakola. The Pakolas have been stationed in Sigonella for two years during which they have been active in the community as volunteers.

"This program highlights the special unique qualities of military families," said Becker. "Both the Currys and the Pakolas have contributed a great deal for the community."

Becker also added that every family is a winner for the role of support and understanding. "We wanted to recognize the great sacrifices that families go through on a daily basis."

**Births**

**November 10, 2003**

Maria and Michael Medell

Chiara Francesca Medell

19 ½ inches, 6 pounds 4 ounces

**November 13, 2003**

Agata and Jorge Gaitan

Asia Renee Gaitan

20 inches, 7 pounds 14 ounces

**November 15, 2003**

Renee and Christopher Van Allen

Arianna Marie Van Allen

18 ¾ inches, 6 pounds 8 ounces